



# Town of Groton - Public Works

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Public Works  
Administration  
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## Meeting Minutes

### Permanent School Building Committee

*Chairman Rick DeMatto, Vice-Chairman W. Gordon Lange, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Richard Monteiro, Robert Morrison, and John Webster.*

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Thursday, March 3, 2005

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### Regular Meeting

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#### 1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Rick DeMatto, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Gordon Lange, Richard Monteiro and John Webster

Members Absent: Robert Morrison

*Staff: Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, Wes Greenleaf, Director of School Buildings and Grounds, Lori Hammett, Project Management Specialist and Colleen Quattromani, Recorder.*

*Also present: Robert Peruzzotti, BOE Liaison.*

#### 2. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Mr. Keith Brothers, President, Local Union 547, 268 Thomas Road, Groton, thanked the PSBC for taking the time to listen to Mayor DeStefano of New Haven and his views of project labor agreements at the PSBC meeting on February 17, 2005. Mr. Brothers gave the PSBC another copy of a boiler plate project labor agreement. Mr. Brothers would like to schedule time with the PSBC after Gilbane has signed a contract with the Town. Mr. Brothers said again that he thinks the use of a project labor agreement is good for the community and tax payers.*

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### P-2005-0001 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Webster, seconded by Monteiro, that the meeting minutes of February 17, 2005 be accepted as written.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Votes:** In Favor: 5 - DeMatto, Austin-LaFrance, Lange, Monteiro and Webster

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (other than Subcommittee reports)

##### (a) PSBC Members

*No report.*

##### (b) Department of Public Works staff

*Mr. Schneider said that Town staff continues negotiations on a contract and fee schedule with Gilbane to provide Construction Manager as Advisor services for the Town. Staff is also working on the final contract language for the agreement with URS, the firm selected for the Environmental Engineering work on the School Construction Project. Mr. Schneider told the Committee that Mr. Norris would begin in his position as Project Manager - School Construction on March 7th.*

##### (c) Board of Education staff

*Mr. Greenleaf told the PSBC that the two committees working on naming the new schools had published requests for suggestions from the public and received numerous replies. School administrators and facility also had suggestions for the committee who have now narrowed the selection to six names. The names should be selected sometime in the next week.*

*In meetings with High School principal, Mr. Arcarese work continued on the school programs and the number of classrooms per "school" has been validated as twenty-four.*

**(d) Jeter, Cook & Jepson**

*Mr. Smolley, principal, JCJ, updated the PSBC on the progress of the project tasks and distributed the latest status report. The programming meetings with the High School and the elementary schools are complete. The survey field work, property lines and topography, for Freeman Hathaway and Fitch High School are also complete putting the project about three weeks ahead of schedule in that type of work. The archaeological site walk for February 24th was cancelled and is now scheduled for March 9th, beginning at 1:00 pm at the "King" property.*

*There have been more discussions with Town staff on the Refuge vs Shelter option for emergency facilities for the High School. The Town now has a refuge which houses 4% of the population or approximately 1400 people. The new generator and kitchen and support facilities will be designed for 1600 people. If the facility becomes a shelter you must upgrade the facility to handle more serious storms, etc. The cost of upgrading to a shelter is hard to justify in a school project and the State does not reimburse for the work.*

*Borings and soil probes are beginning starting at the High School and continuing onto Freeman Hathaway and then the "King" property. On March 17th the PSBC should see the beginning of the designs developed from the programs. The Committee should see a topography with one foot contours for Fitch High School in two weeks.*

*Mr. Smolley asked the PSBC to consider meeting on March 31st to take advantage of the five week month and catch up on a bit of work.*

*Mr. Lange asked what the impact of another delay of the archaeologist site walks would do to the schedule. Mr. Smolley said work can carry on around the project. Mr. Webster wondered what the State's expectations were for the "King" property. Mr. Smolley replied that the State has different criteria and views from Fort Friends on the type of artifacts found in the area and as the school is to be constructed away for the area in question the project should not be affected.*

*Mr. Smolley then introduced Mr. Kerwin of CCR, who is working as a sub consultant though JCJ, to talk about infrastructure issues meaning everything behind the walls, in the ceiling or under the floors. The discussion didn't include hardware or software which will be talked about further down the line in the project. Mr. Kerwin provided a handout which provided detailed information on voice systems, telephone systems and public address systems, voice mail systems, carriers, special coverage requirements, wide area network, video distribution, networks, antenna issues, electronic signage, phasing - renovations issues, curriculum specific technologies/areas, specialty sound systems, audio/visual, and security issues. For the discussion Mr. Kerwin explained the philosophies used in setting the priorities in designing the Technology Program. One goal is to be able to create a wireless building that is protected from technology changes in the future. The designers also want to create a uniform building with the same technologies available at all points of the building. During the discussion which followed the presentation Mr. LaFrance asked why it appeared that the designers were creating a wireless system inside the building but not outside. Mr. Kerwin explained that wireless delivery systems haven't been excluded from implementation in the future but do not currently exist at the schools so one roof penetration will be included in the design.*

*Mr. Kerwin spent some time in the discussion of speech amplification as a teaching and learning tool, a topic of considerable interest in education today. Chairman DeMatto, the former Director of Special Education for the Town of Waterford, spoke of his interest in sound field systems. Mr. LaFrance thought that attention to acoustics should begin in the design of the classrooms. Mr. Monteiro asked if the design team would be able to bring the new technology into the old part of Fitch High School. Mr. Greenleaf explained that some problems had to be corrected at the High*

*School but that he wants to make sure the grant is maximized as well.*

*Looking ahead to the PSBC meeting on March 17th, Mr. Smolley told the Committee that JCJ would make a presentation on security design parameters which tie into technology and refuge issues and brings pieces of the project together. Mr. Smolley then introduced on a broad scale an overall program for the elementary schools and the High School. The scheme shown was an out growth of all the meetings between the architect and the BOE administration and lays out how many classrooms, what size classrooms and what support facilities will be designed for the schools.*

**5. RECEIPT OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) MODEL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**P-2004-0009 Contemporary School Building Projects**

Discussion on review of contemporary school building projects

*No report.*

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**P-2005-0001 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Austin-LaFrance, seconded by Webster, to nominate Mr. Lange for the Vice-Chairman position on the PSBC. The PSBC then unanimously voted Mr. Lange to the Vice-Chairmanship.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 4 - DeMatto, Austin-LaFrance, Monteiro and Webster  
Non-voting: 1 - Lange

**(b) High Performance Schools**

*Chairman DeMatto spoke to the Committee about reviewing their chosen construction topics in High Performance School Design in preparation for JCJ's presentations. JCJ was asked to forward their schedule so that the PSBC is ready for the discussion and can ask appropriate questions.*

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

*The PSBC agreed to take advantage of the five week month and conduct a special meeting on Thursday, March 31st.*

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

*The PSBC wished to thank Lori Hammett, Project Management Specialist for her assistance on the School Building Project. Mr. Norris will start March 7th in the Project Management - School Construction position.*

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.*